



# The Cleveland Museum of Art

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## THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART ACQUIRES MAJOR WORKS

The Cleveland Museum of Art is pleased to announce key additions to its collections after a December meeting of the museum's accessions committee. Reflecting the broad scope of the museum's collections, the works of art come from widely varying eras and cultures, ranging from ancient to present times, and from Europe and Asia to the Americas.

Most significant, and largest, is a major abstract painting from 1991 by the distinguished German artist Gerhard Richter, which adds a dazzling splash of color to the contemporary collection. *Abstract Painting (750-1)* is representative of one of a number of styles Richter pursues, including abstract works, realist landscapes, and images of candles and skulls. His multiplicitous approach sets him apart from most other artists, who work in individual idioms. Richter created a body of abstract works between 1988 and 1991 for which he used a strategy of covering each new layer of paint with a sheet of plastic and pulling it away from the canvas. The process removes portions of the recent paint applications to reveal the colors and textures of previous layers, creating an extraordinary sense of depth. The colors are bright and rich, the surface an interplay of soft melding textures punctuated by abstract shapes. Richter and Anselm Kiefer, whose *Lot's Wife* is displayed in gallery 243, are considered two of the most important post-WWII German artists.

The most-recently-created work in the museum collection is now *Curved Plane/Figure VII (Study)*, a 1995 painting by Robert Mangold. A student at the Cleveland Institute of Art in the 1950s, Mangold has developed a distinctive style incorporating unusually shaped canvases of flat fields of color abutted together to create larger harmonious compositions, which are then generally inscribed with pencil lines in simple geometric shapes. In his *Curved Plane/Figure Series* from 1994-95, he created semicircular works that are inscribed with elliptical shapes; this acquisition, with three predominant colors ranging from red-orange, to orange-grey, to pure grey, is a half-scale (though still large at over eight feet wide) study for one of these eleven paintings. The painting is a gift from the Cleveland Society for Contemporary Art, the museum's support group for contemporary art, on the occasion of the Society's 35th anniversary.

Thomas Hart Benton is best known as the main proponent of the 1930s art movement known as American regionalism. His works of the period (during which he was America's most

famous artist) generally depict “real” American experiences and are marked by populist politics and a satirical bent. The drawing *G.O.P. Convention, Cleveland, 1936* has all of those, plus an obvious additional interest factor for the Cleveland museum. The scene is Public Hall in downtown Cleveland, where the 1936 convention nominated Al Landon to eventually lose against Democratic incumbent President Franklin Roosevelt. The action is not on the podium, but in the seats and aisles where deal-making, punch-throwing, and police intervention set a tone of general disarray. The drawing is uncharacteristically large and well-finished for Benton; he had made an earlier sketch and liked the drawing well enough to recreate it in this highly-finished form, possibly as a presentation piece. The museum has very few examples of American regionalism in the collection, thus making this drawing by the movement’s main proponent a particularly welcome addition. Its subject matter seems especially compelling as Cleveland enters its 1996 bicentennial year.

Not all of the most important acquisitions were created by artists of this century. A cast bronze *olpe* (wine pouring vessel) was probably made in the 1st century AD for a wealthy Roman household somewhere in northern European provinces of the Roman Empire. Appropriately, busts of Bacchus and his habitual drinking companions appear in relief on the handle of the jug.

**Other notable works (in chronological order) include:**

- The oldest of the acquisitions, two Italian pots with spiked handles and incised decoration made in the area of Rome in the 7th century BC, just around the time Rome was founded.
- A wonderfully engaging ceramic pot from Costa Rica, made sometime between AD 300 and 1100, with the figure of a plump iguana perched on the lid.
- A wooden Buddha from Korea, still displaying its original lacquered and gilded surface from the 14th-century Koryŏ period, representing *Amitabha* (*Amit’a* in Korean), the deity who reigns over a celestial paradise in the western skies. This image is exceptional for both its condition and its rarity—aside from this *Amit’a*, no wooden sculptures from Korea are known to exist in Western collections.
- A very rare 1803-04 woodcut by Caspar David Friedrich, Germany’s most important Romantic painter, *Woman with the Spider Web between Bare Trees*, with the deep embossing of the paper from its impression upon the wood block still clearly visible.
- *Interior of a Church*, a Danish painting from about 1850 by a little-known artist named Heinrich Hansen, a marvel of symmetrical design and subtle depiction of light and shadow.
- American photographer Charles Weed’s mammoth wet collodion process print from a 17 x 22-inch glass negative, *Cathedral Rocks and Reflections, Yosemite*, in 1864. Weed was the first photographer to document Yosemite, in 1859. This print is from a later trip.
- A glazed ceramic support for a vase, titled *Titans*, inscribed with the name “Carrier-Belleuse,” but actually modelled by Auguste Rodin, who worked as an occasional assistant to Carrier-Belleuse. He created the group of figures that makes up *Titans* in 1876 after an inspiring trip to Italy.



**List of works discussed (in chronological order)**

Italy, Latium (area of Rome), third quarter 7th century BC  
*Amphora with Spiked Handles and Impressed Decoration*  
Brown impasto ceramic, H. 31.3 cm  
Purchase from the J. H. Wade Fund 95.64

Italy, Latium (area of Rome), early 7th century BC  
*Amphora with Spiked Handles and Incised Decoration*  
Black impasto ceramic, H. 27.6 cm  
Purchase from the J. H. Wade Fund 95.65

Late Hellenistic–Roman, 1st century AD  
*Olpe* (single-handled jug)  
Cast bronze, H. 35.5 cm  
Leonard C. Hanna, Jr., Fund 95.63

Costa Rica, Guanacaste  
*Lidded Vessel with Modeled Iguana*, ca. AD 300-1100  
Pottery, Diam. 38 cm  
Norman O. Stone and Ella A. Stone Memorial Fund 95.72

Korea, Koryŏ period, 14th century  
*Amit'a (Amitabha)*  
Wood with lacquer and gilding, H. 33 cm  
Severance and Greta Milliken Purchase Fund and Gift of Mr.  
and Mrs. Joseph P. Carroll 95.67

Caspar David Friedrich, German, 1774-1840  
*The Woman with the Spider Web between Bare Trees*,  
ca. 1803-04  
Woodcut, 17 x 12 cm  
John L. Severance Fund 95.68

Heinrich Hansen, Danish, 1821-1890  
*Interior of a Church*, ca. 1850  
Oil on canvas, 35.4 x 31.4 cm  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Marlatt Fund 95.66

Charles L. Weed, American, 1824-1903  
*Cathedral Rocks and Reflections, Yosemite*, 1863-4  
Albumen print from wet collodion negative, 17" x 22"  
Jo Hershey Selden Fund 95.78

Auguste Rodin, French, 1840-1917  
*Titans, Support for a Vase*, ca. 1876  
Glazed earthenware, made at Choisy-le-Roi, signed  
Carrier-Belleuse, figures modelled by Rodin, H. 36.8 cm  
Leonard C. Hanna, Jr., Fund 95.71

Thomas Hart Benton, American, 1889-1975  
*G.O.P. Convention, Cleveland, 1936*  
Ink and graphite on board, 14-1/8" x 20-1/2"  
Leonard C. Hanna, Jr., Fund 95.70

Gerhard Richter, German, born 1932  
*Abstract Painting (750-1)*, 1991  
Oil on Canvas, 260 x 200 cm  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Marlatt Fund 95.74

Robert Mangold, American, born 1937  
*Curved Plane/Figure VII (Study)*, 1995  
Acrylic and black pencil on canvas, 124.5 x 248.9 cm  
Gift of the Cleveland Society for Contemporary Art on the  
occasion of its 35th anniversary

**Other major works acquired earlier this year include:**

Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes, Spanish, 1746-1828  
Double sided drawing:  
Recto: *A Young Woman Making Advances to a Man with a Paunch*  
Verso: *A Young Woman Wringing her Hands in Distress over the  
Corpse of a Man, a Dog Tugging at her Skirt*  
1796-97  
Brush and black ink and wash 235 x 145 cm  
John L. Severance Fund 95.15

Nigeria, Nok culture, about 600 BC-AD 250  
*Pottery Head*  
Terracotta, H. 34 cm  
95.21

Turkey (Iznik), Ottoman Period  
*Large Dish with Softly Foliated Rim*, 1535-1540  
Fritware with polychrome underglaze-painted design  
95.17

Leon Kossof, British, b. 1926  
*Christ Church, Spitalfields, Friday Evening*, 1991  
Oil on board, 182.2 x 122.1 cm  
95.25

Egypt, Dynasty 26, ca. 600–300 BC  
*Cosmetic Jar in the Form of the God Bes*  
Egyptian blue, H. 9.3 cm  
Purchase from the J. H. Wade Fund 95.13

China, Liao Empire, 907-1125 AD  
*Imperial Robe*  
Silk gauze embroidered with silk floss and gold thread; tabby silk  
lining; silk batting, collar to hem: 130 cm.  
Purchase from the J. H. Wade Fund 95.20

In addition to those works mentioned specifically above, 1995  
acquisitions included a large number of important photographs  
(vintage to contemporary) and notable prints and drawings, as well  
as additional works from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the United States.  
A comprehensive list will be published in the 1995 Annual Report.  
Selected photographs are available.